

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 2.

AURELIA, IOWA, SEPTEMBER, 1896.

No. 7

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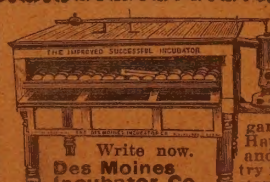
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Unprofitable Pets.

The petted chicken is usually a spoiled chicken. It is less self reliant than one which has never been fondled and fed from the hand. The "back door statuary" is made up in large part of fowls that have been made pets of by their owner, and taught to expect some dainty morsel from him every time he appears in sight.

The young stock should be fed once or twice a day at regular hours, and absolutely nothing should be given them between those hours. They will soon learn that if they are to obtain anything between the morning and evening feeds they will be obliged to find it for themselves. They will then go off on the range immediately after the morning meal, and little will be seen of them during the day. But if they are encouraged to expect even a spoonful of anything in the interval, the fear that it will escape them will keep them continually loitering in the vicinity of the home premises, and they will get neither the exercise nor the variety of food necessary to the highest condition of health and vigor.

Many people mistake the meaning of kindness to their chickens. They get the idea into their heads that this consists in habitually petting them and keeping them stuffed with food. This is the sort of kindness which is calculated to prove the ruin of the flock. The chicken that is taught to loaf during all the growing period of its life is apt to be a loafer when the time arrives for it to be doing its part towards filling the egg basket, for the reason that it will be wanting in the physical qualities which can only be developed by exercise. Any system of management which relieves the birds of the necessity of work, and makes them needlessly dependent upon their owner for their food, is the very opposite of kindness and good treatment.

It should be the first thought of the

keeper of poultry to manage his flock as nearly as possible in accordance with natural conditions. The nearest approach he can make to this without subjecting the birds to extreme hunger, or dangerous exposure to enemies, the greater will be their constitutional hardiness. And the fact should never be lost sight of that when practical results are the aim of the breeder everything else must be held of second importance to hardiness.

According to the view of the writer, the ideal state of existence for a brood of chicks is in a coop to itself in some shady nook entirely out of sight of the home premises. This coop should be visited twice or three times a day, always, if possible, by the same person, for the purpose of feeding and for refilling the drinking vessel, and for securely shutting the brood in at night and liberating it in the morning. Here they should remain to roam the fields at will and removed as far as possible from the hurtful effects of artificial influences and surroundings. Chicks thus reared will have health and stamina, if the parent stock has been good. They will be fortified against the encroachment of diseases to which overfed and pampered stock would quickly succumb, and in practical results will not be a disappointment to their owner if they are given a fair chance when placed in winter quarters to make a proper return for their housing and feed.

Fighting Against Double Matings.

The breeds which cannot be bred to standard requirements at a single mating are being fusilladed all along the line. Many of the highest authorities are proclaiming that such breeds cannot rightfully lay claim to the term thoroughbred, and are discrediting them with a vehemence which leads to the belief that if they had their way about it they would "fire" them out

of the standard. This would settle the business of some of the most popular breeds in existence in the hands of a large proportion of their patrons, and give them over entirely to the few who have mastered the secret of bringing about the desired result by means of one mating. The fact that some of the most successful breeders of these very varieties dispute the necessity of double matings seems to set the fact beyond question that the practice is uncalled for. Double matings should be discouraged. If necessary heroic measures should be employed to that end. And admirers of the breeds which it has been claimed cannot be made to conform to standard requirements without this indirect proceeding, should give heartiest support to any move intended to bring it into disfavor. Breeds of fowls which for general excellence rank among the best which have ever been brought to public notice should be rescued from the imputation of impure blood which this supposed necessity for double matings has fixed upon them.

The Leghorns' Way.

The Leghorns will lay fewer eggs during the moulting period than the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes or Langshans. Whatever the Leghorns do they do with a will. When they lay they shell out the eggs as though they were being paid for it by the job. And when they moult, they simply moult, and do nothing else. One thing at a time, seems to be a leading article of the Leghorn creed. They concentrate the whole of their attention upon the business in hand, and do not exhaust their energies on two or three different tasks when they should all be expended upon one. The Leghorns never do things by halves.

Will you—the reader of this item—send us the names of the poultry breeders of your neighborhood.

Poultry Houses,

Personal acquaintances sometimes request us to give them a plan for a poultry house, thinking, no doubt, that as we have access to a great many poultry papers, we could furnish them with a better design than one of their own invention. These friends are generally people who do not wish to put any unnecessary expense upon the building. They are willing to pay what a suitable building is worth, and when it is completed they want it to appear well among the other structures on the premises. The cost is expected to be in keeping with these general directions, with a special injunction to confine it within the smallest limits consistent with the actual necessities of the case. But we usually find that when we have complied with the request, and outlined a building which we think will meet the needs of these friends, they are surprised at its simplicity. And sometimes we have had reason to suspicion that on account of its simplicity they believed it to be lacking in modern style and arrangement.

A great deal of ingenuity and architectural skill have been expended to a very poor purpose in the making of complicated plans for poultry houses. This multiplicity of designs has to some extent come under the notice of every reader of the agricultural papers, and given rise to a confusion of ideas as to what is required for the purpose. It is difficult to get many people to believe that a plain, common sense building, such as in general arrangement would be necessary for any other kind of stock, is all that is required for housing the poultry. There is a fixed impression that the poultry house must be of some peculiar design, radically different from any other building on the place, of outlandish form, and abounding in miraculous and cunning little nooks and corners. All this is a mistaken notion, as any one can find out by visiting the premises of poultrymen who understand their business thoroughly, and inspecting their yards and buildings.

The dimensions of the poultry house will, of course, vary according to the size of the flock which it is intended to shelter. Twelve by twenty feet is probably about the correct size for the average farmer. The interior should have a division separating it into two apart-

ments. One apartment will be the scratching room, and the other should be fitted up with the perches and nesting boxes. There should be a common sized window sash in the south walls of each of these rooms, or if it is preferred, have both windows in the scratching room and none in the other, light being admitted to the latter through the door in the partition. The thing of first importance is to make the building warm. If possible lath and plaster it; if not cover the walls with tarred paper. The perches should be on a level, and not more than three feet from the ground. A wide board should be placed beneath them to catch the droppings. The nesting boxes can be arranged to suit the fancy of the owner, the principal point to be kept in mind being to so place them that the entrance will be on the darkened side. Any special details apart from this can safely be left to the taste of the owner. Now there is your poultry house, a simple oblong box without complications of any kind. No amount of ingenuity can materially improve upon it. In the main it is just the kind of a house which is now in use by all the best informed and most successful keepers of poultry. It is much easier to design a good serviceable poultry house than a barn or stable, and nearly as much so as a corn crib. People who are afraid to trust themselves to do this have a very imperfect understanding of what is needed, and greatly exaggerate the difficulties of the undertaking.

Culling.

We believe in close culling. Many breeders make the mistake of crowding their poultry houses in winter with stock which had better been sent to market in August and September. But there are difficulties attending this task of culling which everybody is not fully qualified to contend with. It takes experience to select out the most promising birds when they are not more than half or two-thirds grown. When one is handling a breed which is new to him he is especially liable to make costly mistakes. The advice, therefore, to cull and market early, needs to be given with some reservations. Its application is limited to cases where the knowledge exists to cull with sense and judgment. There will be birds in every flock with defects of such a conspicuous nature that their unfitness to

be retained as breeders can be discovered at a glance. These birds should be sent away at the earliest moment that they are fit to go to market. But it stands the breeder in hand to exercise extreme caution in making his separations with the balance of the flock, otherwise he may have to pay dearly for his recklessness. The commission morchant is not the proper person to send the 95 point birds to, but a good many of them fall into his hands just the same. If he were capable of appreciating their value he could add a very profitable "side line" to his business by selling them back to the parties from whom they were received for about twenty times the price that he paid for them. Surprising changes often take place in young birds about the time that they arrive at maturity. The breeder of thoroughbred poultry cannot employ himself to better purpose than by making a close study of conditions such as will enable him to anticipate these changes, and pick out in advance the specimens of the greatest value.

The Industrious Hen.

Take a lesson in industry from the hen. She begins her duties at the first streak of dawn. She gives herself no concern about the eight hour system or the ten hour system. She "sticks to her knitting" without intermission from morning till night, and goes to bed at dark. And she makes a success of life, whether working under the gold standard, free silver, tariff reform or no reform. She don't bother with politics, though often as well qualified to vote intelligently as her owner. But she believes in hens' rights, and stands up for them. The right which she prizes the highest is the right to scratch for her living. Bipedes who pride themselves upon knowing a good deal more than a hen are slow to confess that the principal cause of their failure in life is due to the fact that they are not willing to scratch as hard as she does.

For Sake of Appearance.

Frequently gather up the cast off feathers which accumulate in the poultry house during the moulting period and burn them. We don't know that they do any particular harm except to give a very untidy appearance to the building, but that alone is a sufficient reason for putting them out of sight.

Give the Youngsters a Chance.

Next month breeders in the north will begin to sort up their young stock and arrange their pens for the winter. If eggs are desired during the winter it will be well to have regard for something else besides uniformity of plumage and form in filling the different pens. The birds were not all hatched at the same time and are not all of the same age and size. Some of them will not be fully grown for one or two months to come. It is a mistake to put these pullets in the same pen with those that have reached maturity, or with the laying hens. They require treatment altogether different from that which must be given to the laying stock. They need a different quality of food, and more of it, in order to hasten their growth and prepare them for the duties of the winter months. To confine them to the ration provided for the layers is to give them a serious set back. House these immature birds to themselves and crowd them along rapidly, but slow up on the crowding process when the first egg appears in sight. In other words treat them as growing stock until the time arrives for treating them as layers. This cannot be done if they are mixed up with the older and larger fowls. If these undersized birds were able to obtain their full proportion of the food in competition with their stronger companions they would still be underfed, or at least improperly fed. But the latter will see to it that they do not get anything like their share. They will let no opportunity escape to impress the fact upon them that they must not even attempt it, and the upshot of the matter will be that from constant fear of punishment they will become completely cowed. They will be kept at the verge of starvation, all growth will be arrested, and the owner will soon have a lot of stunted pullets on his hands which will be utterly worthless. A poultry keeper who is well up in his business would not accept such a lot of pullets as a gift.

When the breeding season arrives these pens can be broken up, and the fowls bunched according to the desires and purposes of the owner. By that time the later hatched pullets, having been given a fair chance to complete their growth, will be able to take care of themselves in the company of their older associates in the yard, and will be

ready to come under the same treatment. This, of course, does not apply to very late hatched birds, but it will be understood that it does not have reference to stock of that description. We only have under consideration birds which under prudent management can be brought to maturity in time to take their place among the winter layers.

It is a common sight to people who have much to do with poultry, to go into overcrowded poultry houses after the winter has fairly begun and find a jumble of birds of all sizes and ages, from the poor, starving, staggering pullet of four months, to the half moulted, gray headed hen of four or five years. It is a sorry sight to the well informed poultryman, and one which is calculated to inspire him with regret that people who do not know any better than that, and will not put themselves in the way of learning any better, cannot be made amenable to the law for cruelty to animals. Why people who keep poultry at all will be content to keep it in that way, is one of the things which is hard to find out.

The Yellow Leg Delusion.

Breeders of poultry are pretty nearly human, and therefore, must do like the balance of their kind and regulate their business according to the demands of the trade. If this were not true they would all quit breeding yellow legged chickens where the sole object was to produce market poultry. They all know that for table use the dark legged varieties, or at least those with legs of a color other than yellow, are the best. But the public will not have it that way, and so the poultry breeders give it what it calls for, though they have it in their power to furnish it with something better if it would only take it. The quail, the pheasant, nearly all the wild birds of the forest and field that are so highly prized on account of the delicacy of their flesh, have dark legs.

Make a Pasture.

If there is a vacant piece of ground contiguous to the poultry house, or one which has matured a crop and for the balance of the season is liable to be given over to the grass and weeds, it should be cleaned up at once and sown to rye. The rye will furnish green food till late in the winter, and will be the first green thing to show above ground in

the spring. The value of such a pasture for the flocks from which the eggs are to be reserved for the early hatches, can scarcely be overestimated. Many people who next spring will be disheartened at the failure of the eggs to hatch, could have saved themselves all the disappointment by treating a piece of ground in this way which they have left to be covered over with a rank and unsightly growth of weeds.

Clover as a Lice Killer.

Editor Messenger: I have arrived at the belief that finely chopped clover hay is an excellent thing to use for nesting material in the poultry house. I believe the scent of the clover is disagreeable to the lice, and keeps them out of the nesting boxes. Its virtues in this respect, if I am not mistaken in the belief that it possesses such virtues, became known to me by accident. I have always preferred soft oats straw to anything else for the nests, but on one occasion happening to get out of it I filled the boxes with finely chopped new clover hay. Lice were then present in small numbers, owing principally to the fact that the pressure of other duties had made it about impossible for me to give the time to the poultry house required for cleaning them out. But when the time arrived for renewing the material not a louse could be found. I have frequently repeated the experiment and always with the same result. I believe that clover hay is a first-class lice killer, and would like to know if any of your readers have had an experience with it which would tend to confirm the correctness of this opinion.

H. L. H.

Lawrance, Kansas.

Must Know His Breed.

A large part of the skill of the poultryman lies in his knowledge of the breed which he undertakes to care for. His efforts to make a success of the business will prove abortive if his management of all the breeds is precisely the same. Light Brahmas and Leghorns must not be fed alike. One or the other will prove unprofitable under the same treatment. The biggest "know how" in the poultryman manual is that which enables him to intelligently vary his treatment according to the necessities of the different breeds under his care.

An Old Story.

The Messenger is just in receipt of a letter which serves to confirm a truth which is frequently made the text for articles in the poultry papers. Last October we received a subscription from a party in southern Missouri. In an accompanying note he informed us that he had just completed a brick poultry house two-hundred feet long, and was then buying up Barred Plymouth Rock hens with which he proposed to fill it from end to end. He also told us that he was without experience previous to the year before. He had kept thirty-one hens over the winter then last past, and the returns had so impressed him with the profits of poultry keeping that he had decided to engage in it in an extensive way, and make it his exclusive business in future. He wanted to know if we would not send him some of our old exchanges, as he realized that he had much to learn yet, though he appeared to have no misgivings in regard to the success of the venture in which he had embarked.

We immediately wrote to this subscriber warning him of the dangers of the step which he had taken, and predicting loss and failure if he persisted in the plan of operations which he had described. We advised him to reduce his flock to a hundred hens, even though by so doing the greater part of his costly poultry house would necessarily remain vacant. If he should refuse to accept this advice, we urged as the next best thing the employment of an experienced poultryman, and the giving of the whole flock over to his management. Even this, we wrote him, we regarded as a hazardous experiment, owing principally to the difficulty of being able to secure a man properly qualified to fill the position. But we assumed that such a person might be found if the search were conducted with sufficient care and energy. At any rate it was better to take the chances than to go on the plan already decided upon.

No reply was made to this letter. In accordance with his request we sent packages of poultry papers to him from time to time, and often laid off to write to him again and find out how he was getting along; but the constant pressure of other duties seemed never to leave us a convenient hour for the purpose. Two months ago we received a card

from his postmaster notifying us that the copy of The Messenger sent to his address was no longer taken from the office, and requesting us to discontinue it. We disregarded this notice, and sent the paper as usual the next month. This brought another similar notice from the postoffice. We then wrote to the postmaster telling him that the subscription did not expire till October, and requesting him to explain if he could why the paper was allowed to remain dead in the office. Here is his reply:

"Mr. ——— no longer gets his mail at this office. He left here some time in the spring and I don't know where he has gone to or I would give you his address. He started in the poultry business in a big way about a year ago. He spent considerable money in buildings, but it was not a success. I suppose he don't care as much for the poultry papers as he did, for several others which he was taking still come here and are not called for."

Comment is unnecessary. This is simply another case of a man falling a victim to his own conceit and obstinacy

A Step Forward.

A better understanding of what is required on the part of an individual selected for judging the poultry at the county fairs is being impressed upon the minds of the managers of these associations. In times past appointments were made for this purpose on the theory that anybody who made the least pretense of knowledge of that description was sufficiently well qualified for this kind of work. A fellow who had a dozen hens in his back yard of questionable lineage, who had never seen a Standard of Perfection in his life, and would not know what it was if he should happen to fall over one in the road, was often invested with authority to pick out the fine points on a lot of high grade fowls which were the product of years of study and labor on the part of poultrymen who were familiar with every detail of the standard. This is what has given rise to the stock expression "pumpkin show judging," and it is what has made the owners of really fine birds so shy of the county fairs. Such breeders could not with any patience see a blundering judge axalt above their own choice specimens birds which would be disqualified in any exclusive poultry show. The consequence was that birds of the first class seldom found their way to the county fairs.

Their owners had everything to lose and nothing to gain by sending them there. But this faulty method of dealing with the poultry at the county fairs is gradually giving place to something better. Competent poultrymen, with the knowledge and experience which fits them for the duties to be performed, are being employed to pass upon the merits of the poultry at the county fairs, and in many instances breeders of good stock can enter their birds there with the fullest assurance of getting a record upon them which will fairly express their value. A notable example of the change of policy here referred to is to be set down to the credit of the managers of the O'Brien county fair, in this state. Mr. G. A. C. Clarke, of LeMars, perhaps the most widely known breeder in the state, and one of the best informed and most thoroughly trained poultrymen of the west, was employed to judge the poultry at that fair, and it is needless to say that the birds there on exhibition got their dues. A score card made out by Mr. Clarke has some meaning to it, and every poultryman who knows what a good bird is is fully sensible of that fact. If all other fair associations would copy this example, the general public would have the opportunity to see a class of poultry which will seldom be put on exhibition at such places where the manner of judging is open to the objections above enumerated.

He Is Mistaken.

Burnt bone is no proper substitute for green cut bone. The organic matter is about all driven off by the fire leaving a residuum by no means worthless, but which can only in a very imperfect degree take the place of the green bone. The correspondent who says he has access to an unlimited quantity of dry bone, and claims to have had better success with his poultry since he adopted the practice of burning it and feeding freely to his hens in place of the green bone which he formerly used, is deceiving himself when he allows himself to believe that the improved conditions are due to this change. If he is a close observer he will be able to trace the results to another cause, and find out that what is here said is true. It may be he supplied his hens too liberally with green cut bone. The best thing in the world in the way of feeding material can be carried to a point where it will do harm rather than good.

About Breeds.

J. A. WEERTS, LA SALLE, ILL.

A most perplexing question to one about to engage in poultry keeping, whether it be for pleasure or for profit, is the selection of the breed; and the question, "Which breed shall I keep?" or "Which breed is best for me?" is the one which is most frequently met with in the poultry journals. It is surprising to me that so many people who have lived on farms and had more or less to do with poultry the whole of their lives fail to have even a faint idea of the different breeds and their characteristics. They do not seem to know at all that there are breeds for eggs, breeds for market, and breeds—the general purpose class—which, while not as good layers as the former, or as desirable for the table as the last, admirably answer the needs of many people who are situated for keeping only one variety.

As a rule the heavy laying fowls are small, large of comb, of a nervous and active temperament, and do not bear confinement well. They are of the Mediterranean class, and are natives of the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. Of these the most popular are undoubtedly the Leghorns and Minorcas, of each of which there are several varieties, some of them old and well tried, and some of only recent origin. There is no practical difference between them except that the newer ones are more difficult to breed to standard requirements. To pass on to the table fowls or Asiatics. Of these there are also a number of breeds, and each breed has different varieties. The Light Brahmas properly head the list, as they are the largest fowl and by many regarded as the handsomest of this class. They are also one of the few breeds which, though wonderfully improved, is in all essential particulars as nature formed it. Consequently this fowl breeds remarkably true. I have heard it said many times that the Light Brahmas throw fewer culls than any other breed in existence. The Dark Brahma is also a beautiful fowl but weighs a pound less, (11 lbs for male and 9 for female) but is much more difficult to breed true to color.

Next in size come the Cochins, of which there are four varieties, Black, White, Buff and Partridge. They are beautiful fowls, fair winter layers, and as roasters can't be beat. But they are

indolent, easy going birds, and unless care is taken in feeding they are apt to become too fat and not lay well. But of all the Asiatics give me the Langshan. To me they are by far the most desirable of the class. It is true their legs are dark and their flesh white, but this does not detract in the least from the superior quality of the meat. And they are a hardy fowl, almost as active as the Leghorn, and not much behind them in egg production. There are two varieties of these, the White and the Black, but the former are not bred to any great extent, owing to a supposed tenderness from which the latter are exempt.

Next in order are the American or general purpose breeds which should really have taken first rank on any account. Chief among these are the Plymouth Rocks and the Wyandottes, each breed having several varieties. The Rocks are best known and most extensively bred of any of the American breeds. They are excellent layers, a fair table fowl, and the best of mothers. Their greatest fault is their tendency to overfatness, and too much of a proneness to broodiness. My experience with them as a whole has been unsatisfactory for the above reasons. It baffles me to this day to apportion to them the required amount of food for keeping them in thrifty condition and prevent them from becoming overfat. But for all this the Plymouth Rock is a grand fowl, and in the hands of those who understand them are very profitable. The Wyandotte family is one of the best of American origin. They are good layers and not such inveterate setters as the Rocks, and are fully their equals in table qualities. We believe the Wyandottes are undervalued among the other breeds of their class.

As stated at the outset of this article, the question of breeds is often a difficult one for the beginner to settle. The points above given will be of no value to anyone but the beginner, and it is only for the beginner that I presume to write. At the commencement of my experience in poultry keeping I made some serious mistakes in the selection of breeds, for the simple reason that I had no safe guide at hand which would enable me to make selections suited to my intentions and surroundings. Perhaps what I have written may come under the eye of some situated as I then was, and be in some small degree helpful to them.

It Pays to Winter the Best.

It is a bad plan to crowd the poultry houses with cockerels during the winter, and thus place the hens at a disadvantage for producing eggs. We are of the belief that too many second and third grade cockerels are kept over the winter in the hope of obtaining a high price for them in the spring. But the breeder who is in possession of really choice stock can well afford to make special provision for the protection of a considerable number of the most promising birds during the winter.

There is always an active demand for high scoring male birds in the spring. In spite of the frequently repeated advice to buy in the fall, only a small proportion of people will do so. They all know that the advice is good, but the dollars required to make the purchase are usually in demand for other purposes, and this is one of the things which it is possible to postpone till a hoped for more convenient season. They know that the money must be expended before the next breeding season comes round, but trust that in the meantime something will turn up to make it easier for them to part with it. The provident and forehanded are not influenced by such considerations, and this class make it a rule to buy in the fall and thus save about half the outlay which would be required to obtain the same value in the spring. But we regard it safe to say that fully three-fourths of the sales of this character are made just in advance of the breeding season. The limit of postponement has then been reached. The cockerel must now be had at any sacrifice, and those in search of what they need cannot afford to spend time in quibbling over a difference of a few dollars in the price. The consequence is that it is comparatively easy to make sales in the spring at remunerative figures when you have on hand what your correspondents want.

We remember that a number of The Messenger advertisers were last spring flooded with orders for cockerels about the time they believed the business for the season was over, and were preparing to send their surplus stock to market. We could give the name of at least one breeder who sold cockerels for as much as ten dollars apiece which he would have been willing to dispose of in the fall for half that money. Those who have good stock, and know how to go about finding purchasers, find that it pays them to make accommodations for wintering their best cockerels.

Establishing a Strain.

G. A. C. CLARKE, LE MARS, IOWA.

The American Standard of Perfection gives the following definition of the word Strain: "A race of fowls that has been carefully bred by one breeder, or his successor, for a number of years, and has acquired an individual character of its own." To which might well be added:—these characteristics being so firmly established that they are transmitted to their offspring with great certainty.

These strain peculiarities may consist of one or more practical or fancy points, such as prolific egg production or a plump body on the one hand; or perfection of comb or earlobes on the other. "Rome was not built in a day," and it takes time (the Standard says "a number of years" which is true if somewhat ambiguous) to establish a strain no matter what object is in view.

How many advertisements do we see reading about as follows:— Eggs from White Wyandottes (Brown's Strain). This may mean much or nothing; for instance, a man buys eggs from Brown and being well satisfied with the stock at maturity, writes to him to ask the price on a cockerel to mate with the pullets he got from those eggs; usually he wishes one "not related." Brown breeds in line to keep up his strain (as he must do if he has any pretensions in that direction) consequently the chances are that all his cockerels are more or less related to his customers pullets. Therefore he buys a male to sell to his friend who mates him to the pullets he already has, and in due time advertises "Eggs from White Wyandottes (Brown strain)," when as a matter of fact they can lay claim to no such relationship. If he had left out those words "not related" he would in all probability have got a cockerel which would have assisted in establishing the cardinal points of the strain in question. The progeny of the unrelated cockerel may show the leading characteristics of Brown's stock, or they may not, depending upon whether the blood of the pullets or of the cockerel is the more prepotent: the chances are that no two of the offspring will very closely resemble one another. Birds of a certain strain should be as near alike each other in the strain peculiarities "as peas in a pod."

How to attain this:— Buy a male and female both possessing the points you

wish to establish, making sure that the male came from stock also showing the same points. Mate your male to his own daughters keeping only those (for this mating) having the desired characteristics, and when in need of fresh blood procure it by buying a hen or pullet to mate with your original male (the founder of your strain) or his sons, using a cockerel from this mating which is an exact counterpart of his sire in the points aimed for, to breed to the pullets produced by mating the first male to his own daughters. Always get your fresh blood through the female line, make sure that it is not directly antagonistic to the object in view, and aim to perpetuate some characteristic which is of real value; let the minor points go.

They Didn't Really Try.

The mites which overrun the poultry house can be got rid of, and they must be got rid of, if any profit is to be derived from the poultry. People are sometimes heard to say that they have tried every means that they could think of to clear the poultry house of the mites, and yet they seem to be just about as thick as before they commenced their warfare upon them. Now the fact of the matter is these people have not half tried to kill off the pests. If they had gone about the job in earnest they would have accomplished what they started out to do. One application of whitewash, kerosene emulsion, or anything else is not sufficient. The dose must be repeated two or three times at intervals of three or four days. One treatment, however thorough, will have but little effect towards the attainment of the object in view. But one treatment, and often a very imperfect one at that, is usually the extent of the effort put forth by these people who claim to have tried their very hardest to destroy the mites and failed. If anybody has a lousy poultry house it is his own fault. The lice would not be there if he had made the proper kind of an effort to drive them out. It does not require anything like the amount of labor which many people believe to have a poultry house free from lice, but whatever is done with that object in view must be done with system and order. A writ of ejectment properly served is always effective, but these undesirable tenants are most stubborn contestants if there is any stackness or

irregularity in connection with the proceeding.

MONROE, MICH., July, 3rd, 1896.

Mr. F. L. Achley,
Hawarden, Iowa.

Dear Sir:—The puppy received all O. K., and came through in good shape. That is a nice shipping crate you have. Am much pleased with the puppy, and think will make a nice dog. Please accept thanks for your fair dealing, and will do all that I can to recommend your dogs to my friends. Wishing you success, I remain

Respectfully
FRANK T. HAMMOND.

Ice Cream Made by a New Process.

I have an Ice Cream Freezer that will freeze cream instantly. The cream is put into the freezer and comes out instantly, smooth and perfectly frozen. This astonishes people, and a crowd will always gather to see the freezer in operation and they will all want to try the cream. You can sell cream as fast as it can be made, and sell freezers to many of them who would not buy an old style freezer. It is really a curiosity, and you can sell from \$5 to \$8 worth of cream and six to twelve freezers every day. This makes a good profit these hard times and is a pleasant employment. J. F. Casey & Co., 1143 St. Charles Street, St. Louis, Mo., will send full particulars and information in regard to this new invention on application and will employ good salesmen on a salary.

MONEY IN HENS.



There's Lots of it.
Our great Poultry Book tells how to get it out. It is sensible and practical. Sent free to every one sending five two-cent stamps for a trial 3 month's subscription to

FARM NEWS—the best general farm paper published. A great paper and a great book. Address **FARM NEWS, SPRINGFIELD, O.**

Mention this Paper.

RUTHERFORD BROS.

BREEDERS OF

White Wonders.

The hardiest of all fowls, and the best general purpose breed for the north. One or two good cockerels for sale at \$3 each.

RUTHERFORD BROTHERS,
Aurelia, Iowa.

How to Whitewash.

The following article on the preparation of whitewash we clip from an old number of the Poultry World. The article will doubtless prove serviceable to some of our readers.

We do not intend to write a learned disquisition on whitewashing as one of the fine arts, but merely to offer some suggestions on the subject. While whitewash made from shell lime (oyster shells) may be good enough for inside work, it should never be used on the outside of a building. It soon washes off the fences and boards exposed to the action of the sun and rain, and does but little good. As stone lime (made from limestone) can be had almost anywhere, and cheaply too, it should be used in preference to shell lime. Get that which is fine, well burned and free from shales, and never use that which is air slacked. Put your lime in a tub and pour on enough hot water to cover it, leave it until it has broken to pieces, after which slowly add water enough to make it like very thick cream. Take out enough of this lime into your bucket to make what you wish to use, and tone it down with water to the proper consistency, adding a double handful of common salt to each bucketful, which prevents it from peeling off, causes it to cling well during a rain, and adds to its brightness. Do not put the whitewash on while too thick, as this is one of the great causes of its peeling off.

For inside work, where the wall is plastered or has a smooth finish, when you wish to make an extra nice and attractive job, for each pail of whitewash use a large tablespoonful of dry Venetian red, powdered finely and well mixed with the whitewash. This coloring is very cheap and will give the work a nice rose tint. You can use more or less of the color as you wish, remembering, however, that it dries much lighter than when first put on. Use salt the same as for outside work. As carbolic acid when mixed with lime loses most of its virtue, it will hardly pay to use it as a preventive against lice, mites, etc. Cleanliness and a frequent use of whitewash will do the work effectually, for neither are relished by the insect pests.

Fighting for the White Wonders.

The White Wonder people are after I. K. Felch for advising the extinction of that breed by merging it with the White Wyandottes, and thus producing a new breed which shall be known as the White Americans. These breeders contend that the White Wonder is a better fowl than the White Wyandotte—a better winter layer, and though larger, matures almost as quickly. They are therefore dead against the scheme for destroying its identity in the manner proposed. And these breed-

ers have reason and justice on their side. A breed which has attained a high degree of popularity should not be made use of for improving another which is admitted to be its inferior, and then wiped out of existence. If a union of the two breeds will result in a better fowl than either as it is at present, then such a union is both justifiable and desirable, but let the product retain the name of the breed which has wrought the improvement—the White Wonder.

Linseed Oil Meal.

A gill of linseed oil meal mixed with the food of a dozen hens three times a week is an excellent addition to the regular ration during the moulting season. It will hasten the shedding of the feathers and leave the hens in a better condition when the process is over. Stock feeders of every kind are coming to the belief that it pays to feed linseed oil meal under all circumstances. The writer recently heard a very successful cattleman say that this meal could be used at a profit regardless of the market price of cattle and corn. Oil cake can be given to the poultry any time of year with advantage, but it meets a demand of the system during the latter part of the summer and early part of the fall which does not exist during the balance of the year. It must be kept in mind, however, that there is danger in feeding the meal too freely. A gill to a dozen hens appears like measuring out a good thing with a stingy hand, but it is sufficient.

Soft Shelled Eggs.

Soft shelled eggs are by no means a sure indication that there is a lack of lime in the food. If this were true all the eggs laid by the flock would be soft shelled. But this is seldom the case. Usually it is only the eggs from one or two of the hens which are of this character. This is an evidence that those hens are subject to some constitutional weakness which renders them incapable of appropriating the shell material contained in the food. No amount of lime which may be placed within reach in such cases can be safely depended upon to remedy the trouble. As the correction of the trouble is attended with difficulty, owing to the lack of exact knowledge in relation to it, the safest course to pursue is to discard such hens, and replace them by others of sound physical condition.

Don't Bother With Runts.

The weak, undersized, misshapen cockerel, which had to be taken out of the pen every day last winter and fed to itself in order to keep it alive, is still a sorry specimen in spite of all your trouble and care. Even now it would disgrace any coop of fowls considered fit for market, and you have probably made up your mind so kill it before winter and throw the carcass away. If you have a few such birds in this year's hatch, and every breeder has more or less of them, the sooner they are destroyed the better. A chick which at the outstart of its life becomes the victim of some disorder which arrests its growth and places it far in the rear of the balance of the brood, never develops into anything of value. It is always a waste of time and labor to bother with such stock.

All interested in poultry should send ten cents to the Des Moines Incubator Company, Des Moines, Iowa, for book on practical poultry keeping containing much valuable information.

The POULTRY HERALD.

ST. PAUL, MINN.
IN ITS EIGHTH YEAR.

The only poultry journal in the north-west. Thoroughly up to date. Only the best writers are engaged to contribute to it. Subscription price 50 cents. Sample copy 4 cents.

Webb Publishing Co., Pub's.

What a Lot of Eggs

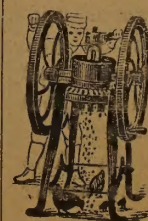
the hens lay when fed on Green Cut Bone: With a dozen hens

MANN'S

Green

Bone Cutter.

Will pay for itself in a short time in the increase of eggs.



Five Dollars buys one

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Catalogue free if you mention this paper.

F. W. MANN CO.
MILFORD, MASS.



Have Some Late Hatched Ones.

The early hatched birds are the ones which must be the main dependence of the keeper of poultry. It is they that will furnish the bulk of the winter eggs which will be sold on the market, and also those from which the choicest exhibition and breeding stock is hatched. The chicks that are brought out of the shell during the last days of winter will bring to their owner the largest share of his profits.

But the late hatched pullets are by no means valueless. The writer has found it in the line of good management to set aside a pen or two for the accommodation of the June and July hatched birds, for they are our principal dependence for eggs when the most of those which were brought out in March and April have become broody and have been transferred to the hatching room. Without them there would often be a shortage of eggs just at the time of year when the need of them is the greatest.

The advice to get the chicks out early in the spring is good. The earlier the better, provided one is favorably situated for properly caring for the broods. But because this is important it must not be taken for granted that all hatching operations must come to an end before the first of June. Chicks hatched during that month, and even as late as the middle of July, will help the owner out of many a difficulty, if housed to themselves and properly fed and cared for during the winter. It is hard to lay down iron clad rules for anything connected with poultry keeping. The rule in this case is early hatching, but it should not be adhered to so closely as to blind one to the fact that late hatching, in a smaller degree, is attended with advantages which are recognized by all practical poultrymen.

A Boom in Buffs.

Readers of the Reliable Poultry Journal may rest assured that the dawn of a boom in Buffs is breaking on the the poultry horizon—a boom in Buff Cochins, Buff Rocks, Buff Leghorns and Buff Wyandottes. The boom in Buff Cochins is well on towards mid-day; that in Buff Leghorns is also pretty well advanced, while that in Buff Wyandottes is only fairly breaking, but promises to "astonish the natives."

It is a back-yard secret thus far. The writer in his travels has come across

fully a dozen old-time breeders who are dabbling in Buff Rocks or Buff Wyandottes "on the sly." Three times out of four they say, "Don't mention these. I am fixing up a little surprise for the boys!" We shall not therefore name names.

It is gratifying that the varieties thus threatened with wide popularity should be of as great merit as the Rocks and Wyandottes. Commercially speaking there are no better table fowl, no better general purpose fowl. We write of them in common with all varieties of Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes. They are America's best productions; the world has produced nothing better in the poultry line.

Lucky is the man or woman who today has a solid start in any of the Buff varieties. The next five years will see large numbers of them sold, and good ones, the best ones, at long prices.—Reliable Poultry Journal.

New Corn and Cholera.

Editor Messenger:—I should like to ask if any of your readers have ever observed any relation between new corn and the chicken cholera. Why do I ask? I have noticed that the chicken cholera is more apt to make its appearance between the middle of July and the last of September than any other time of year. It often appears at that time without any apparent cause. When the flock is healthy, the yards and houses perfectly clean, and all of the surroundings in the very best possible condition, the flock is suddenly attacked by this scourge and die off in great numbers in spite of all that the owner can do. It is a fact generally admitted by western swine breeders that it is necessary to observe great caution in feeding new corn to hogs. Many a swine breeder has met with heavy losses which he believes were due to feeding corn in this state, and such feeding is almost universally condemned by the western journals devoted to that industry. This has set me to thinking that perhaps the same effect is liable to follow excessive feeding of new corn to poultry. I have had some personal experience which leads me to believe that I am not far out of the way in this opinion. Fowls which are running at large where they can obtain a variety of food may be in no danger, but those in yards can get nothing but what is given to them, and it is my

belief that corn in the roasting ear state should be placed before them very sparingly. The disease which is in that manner produced may not be true chicken cholera, but it makes little difference what the name is, since it is about as fatal as anything that ever invades the poultry yard.

R. M.
Lincoln, Neb.

What a Woman Can Do.

Last month I cleared, after paying all expenses, \$355.85; the month previous \$260, and have at the same time attended to other duties. I believe any energetic person can do equally as well, as I have had very little experience. The Dish Washer is just lovely and every family wants one, which makes selling very easy. I do no canvassing. People hear about the Dish Washer and come or send for one. It is strange that a good, cheap Dish Washer has never before been put on the market. The Mound City Dish Washer fills the bill. With it you can wash and dry the dishes for a family of ten in two minutes, without wetting your hands. As soon as people see the Washer work they want one. You can make more money and make it quicker than with any household article on the market. I feel convinced that any lady or gentleman can make from \$10 to \$14 per day around home. You can get full particulars by addressing THE MOUND CITY DISH WASHER CO., St. Louis, Mo. They help you get started, then you can make money awful fast.

A. L. C.

REWARD !

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The McMULLEN WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO.
114, 116, 118 and 120 N. Market St., CHICAGO, ILL.

Too Sociable.

It should be seen to that the broods from two or more coops do not leave the quarters assigned to them and crowd into one. They are very liable to do this on the approach of the cooler nights. The result will be that some of them will be smothered. And it will not always be the smaller and weaker birds that will meet their death in this way. Those which happen to get in a position to receive the greatest pressure will perish even though they are the largest and strongest of the flock. No chicken is possessed of sufficient power to extricate itself from the central point of such a jam. Nobody has reared chickens to any considerable extent without at sometime meeting with heavy losses in this way. Their experience has taught them the necessity of visiting the coops after the flocks are settled for the night and seeing that all is right.

This close crowding is apt to lead to bad results even though the birds escape smothering. The odor which arises from the tightly packed mass should be enough to convince anyone that it is a condition of things which is unhealthy. After steaming and sweltering there all night the birds come out in the chill air of the morning, and thus contract colds which lay the foundation for diseases of a serious character during the winter. All the time and care which have been bestowed upon the flocks during the summer amounts to very little if they are allowed to huddle together in a manner tending to undermine their health just on the eve of winter.

Firestine in Prison.

It is stated on what may be regarded as reliable authority that Albert Firestine, of Ohio, who was last spring accused of dishonest methods in connection with his poultry business, and his advertisement excluded from some of the poultry papers, has recently been arrested and imprisoned by the United States Marshal for defrauding through the mails. It appears that he made a regular practice of pocketing the money of his patrons and forgetting to send them the goods for which it was paid, and the fact was finally brought to the attention of the postal authorities and resulted in his arrest as above stated. The name of Albert Firestine is famil-

iar to all regular readers of the poultry papers, as of late years many articles have appeared in the journals over his signature. It does not seem that there can be any question about the crooked business with which he is charged, and he is now in a fair way to pay for the same in a manner which should be a warning to all others who are tempted to believe that opportunities for making money by fraud are better than by fair and honest dealing. The Messenger exults in nobody's distress, but it wants to see every individual who is using the advertising columns of the poultry papers with a deliberate purpose to defraud those who trust to their honesty fitly punished, and to the limited extent of its powers will assist in holding up to the public gaze every one who has been so convicted.

Hens That Lay 289 Eggs in a Year.

The hens of the United States produce on an average less than 100 eggs a year. Expert poultrymen have made a pen of Plymouth Rock hens produce 289 eggs each in a year. This is the best record which has been made, but it is only slightly above the mark which has been reached by hundreds of others. It all comes from one understanding his business. The men who are meeting with such results are working along well tested lines. They are traveling along well beaten paths, made familiar to them by years of weary tramping. Anyone who desires to meet with like success must make up his mind to work up to it as they have done. They are not going to jump into it at a single bound. And the fact must not be lost sight of that it is worth considerable time and effort to learn how to make your hens lay 289 eggs in a year, while the best that your neighbor can do is to get his to lay 100.

No Overproduction of the Best.

One of the great poultry breeders of the United States, who sometimes rears as many as 10,000 fowls in a year, recently made the statement that he was never troubled to dispose of all he had to sell. He receives every year more orders than he can fill. Here is something for the people to ponder over who hesitate to engage in the poultry business on account of the supposed dangers of an overproduction. There is seldom an over production of anything which ranks above the average grade.

Have something to sell which everybody can't produce and there are always buyers ready to take it if you understand how to go about finding them.

Would Help to Make Better Times for the Farmer.

It seems to us when times are hard, business dull, money close and bills almost uncollectable and thousands of thousands of willing hands idle throughout the land, that the poultry business is more promising than ever, as it is always a cash product with money turned every three months. With the demand for dressed poultry, as far as we are concerned, always in excess of the supply, with the returns far greater than from any other farm product, we think that every farm should have its poultry department.—JAMES RANKIN.

Want a Feed Grinder?

If any reader of this paper is in need of a good feed grinder we want to request him not to make his purchase until he has made a thorough inquiry into the merits of "The Grain King" advertised in these columns. The manufacturers will be pleased to furnish you all the information in regard to this grinder that you could desire, and it is our opinion that they will furnish you a first-class grinder for less money than you will be obliged to pay for one elsewhere. It will only cost you a postal card.

THE **Leghorn Home,**
MARRIAM PARK, MINN.

S. C. W. **Leghorns** S. C. B.
EXCLUSIVELY.

Winners wherever shown. Send for circular No. 2.

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Constructed on the latest and Most Scientific Principles. Guaranteed to do the work or money refunded. Most simple and accurate regulator of heat yet invented. Made, used and sold by practical poultrymen. Send for Circular No. 21.

Agents Wanted.

The Poultry Messenger.

AND

Western Fruit-Grower.

Published the 15th of every month by
The Messenger Company
AURELIA, IOWA.

Subscription Price, 25 Cents per Year

"Not because I raise myself above something, but because I raise myself to something, do I applaud myself."—P. H. Jacobs.

The poultry papers will soon be filled with learned disquisitions on the roup. But before the discussion of the subject waxes too warm will some fellow who is sure he knows what he is talking about step to the front and tell us just what the roup is. Let the definition be plain and to the point—something which the common mind can comprehend. There is a big crowd of us badly mixed up on this roup question.

Don't blow. The patronage which you gain in that way is of a very cheap order. It don't begin to make up for what you lose from people of sense and with correct ideas of propriety. If you have a good thing to offer to the public, say so. Say it plainly, without exaggeration or deception, in words which will not be offensive to cultivated ears. "Blowing your own horn" is a very sure way of disgusting those who are accustomed to better music. Don't make a circus of yourself and expect sedate, self-respecting people to think better of you than they do of the circus.

The poultryman will find it more profitable to devote his time to killing lice at present than to arguing politics. He had better bottle up his political wisdom, and leave the task of saving the country to those who haven't any flocks to save from the roup and the scaly leg. There are lots of people to talk politics who have nothing else to do.

Good poultry judges claim there are at least two points difference in favor of a bird that is properly fitted up for the show room, and one equally as good that is put on exhibition just as it comes from the range or the breeding pen. It is better to accept this as a fact than to grumble about it. It is the proper

thing to offer inducements to people to show birds at their best.

Obey the law. The standard is the law. If the standard is faulty, change it; but compel breeders to breed to the standard. Fads which conflict with the standard should not be tolerated. Make the standard supreme, or abolish it.

There are rascals in the world, but the world is not full of rascals, as some would have us believe. On the contrary, most of the people in the world are very respectable folks, who don't mean to do any harm, and are trying very hard to live honest and upright lives. About the most mischievous people in the world are those who improve every occasion to spread the belief that humanity is all bad. If we could uproot the seeds of distrust sown by these people, and quietly and tenderly remove the sowers where they could no longer indulge in their evil teachings, the world would jog along much more comfortably, and would waste no time in mourning their departure. One of the greatest needs of men is the need of more confidence in each other. This is a fact which is forcibly impressed upon the editor of a chicken paper. The eyes of said editor are not any brighter than the eyes of other people, but the relative amount of good and evil in the human heart is brought in plainer sight to him than to many of his readers.

If the end of all improvement has been reached, then the time has arrived for issuing a permanent standard. No doubt there were people living many years ago who believed that a permanent standard would be the proper thing, but if their will had prevailed the poultry of to-day would be much inferior to what it is. Good as our poultry is, it can be made better, and a wise revision of the standard every five years will contribute to that end.

When a poultryman takes his eggs to the village grocer he is not supposed to be selling stock. If he delivers to him good, fresh eggs in fit condition for table use, he has done all that can be required of him. There is no call for him to insure their fertility, and for ten cents turn over to the grocer or some of his patrons a sitting of eggs worth \$2.50 or \$3.00.

We are not frightened about silver here at The Messenger office to the extent of refusing it when offered in payment of subscription. We may or may not be in favor of free silver, but we are ready to confess that there are times when it does not circulate about these quarters with the freedom that we would like to see.

Notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, perhaps it is just as well to leave the names off the exhibition coops. The poultry judges as a whole may be highly respectable men who are not seeking for opportunities to abuse their trust. We believe it. But the very best of people have need to pray that they may not be led into temptation. It is no reflection upon the honesty of the judges to say that it will be easier for them to keep their present good reputation if the old rule in regard to the names of owners on the exhibition coops is adhered to.

If you have picked up some new ideas in regard to poultry keeping during the summer you could not put a winter day to any better use than in telling the boys all about it through the papers. If you know that you are in possession of a good thing, don't be selfish enough to keep it all to yourself. It's not the poultryman's way.

The chances are at least in the ratio of 16 to 1 that if the western farmer would separate himself from his prejudices, and exercise the same good judgment with regard to poultry keeping that characterizes his view of business matters in general, a considerable proportion of the time which he is giving to raising twelve-cent corn would be devoted to the care of hens. The western farmer is a pretty big fellow, but he greatly overestimates his measure when he allows himself to think that the poultry business is too small a thing for one of his size. He will find that he will have ample room for the exercise of all his mighty talents in such an occupation.

W. E. BEARD, DE WITT, IOWA, breeder and mater of Silver Wyandottes—twelfth year. Stock and eggs for sale in season.

WHITE FACED BLK. SPANISH. I have bred them for 32 years. Circular and my photograph free. John Bennett, Sunman, Ripley co. Indiana.

Notes About Chickens and Fruits.

And Answers to Queries.

Address all communications for this department to O. P. Greer, Bourbon, Indiana, and mention the MESSENGER.

I would like to know if you make special mating for male and female in Silver Wyandottes. I have been breeding them for two years single mating, and a big per cent of the chicks are culls.

It is my opinion that your foundation stock is not the very best. It is true, however, that the best strains of Silver Wyandottes will produce some poor specimens, the same as all other varieties. A solid colored fowl will of course produce more standard birds than parti-colored fowls. To produce extra fine Silver Wyandottes it is necessary to mate extra fine standard birds. It is not necessary to make special mating to have good males and females. I always mate the very finest and best standard birds of each sex.

Would you advise the use of salt and pepper in feed for poultry? It is claimed by some that salt is a poison to chickens.

I have always made it a practice to put salt and pepper in cooked feed for poultry, about the same proportions that you would have it put in your own food. Do not use cayenne pepper. It is too hot and stimulating. Common salt, or chloride of soda, is a non-acid compound of chlorine with the elements of soda and alkali. Salt will counteract acidity, and when mixed with food prevents its souring. It also acts as a disinfectant. When taken in small doses it is beneficial, but is injurious, and even poisonous, when taken in large quantities.

Which is the best fowl for market broilers? The best for eggs, Leghorns or Minorcas? Which is the best general purpose fowl?

It is a little difficult to decide which is the best for market broilers. Opinions differ on that point. There are crosses that are said to make extra broilers for market. As far as my experience goes it would lay between the Wyandotte and the Plymouth Rock. For a general purpose fowl the Barred Plymouth Rock would be a good one. I would prefer Leghorns to the Minorca for eggs. The Leghorns will lay more eggs in a year than the Minorcas. Their eggs are not quite as large as those of the Minorca, but will bring

just the same price per dozen. The Minorcas have extraordinary large combs and wattles that are hard to keep from freezing in the winter in this latitude.

The outlook for the coming year is certainly very encouraging for the fancier. Birds may not change hands at big prices; but the demand for fine fowls at reasonable prices is assured. And this demand will continue to grow as fanciers become educated in the poultry business. My sale of birds has not been large the past year, but it was not for lack of demand. It was because I failed to raise enough birds of the kind that were in demand. There is no use trying to find sale for poor stock. The poultry journals have educated even the novice that he must not start out with inferior stock if he expects to make a success in the business. If the fancier desires success he must produce what is demanded, or something near it. The day is about past when people will pay good money for low grade stock. There is plenty of room for improvement in all the varieties of poultry, and the breeder who gets the nearest to the top is the one who will reap the largest harvest of dollars. To produce the finest birds we must carefully select and mate only a few of the best to be had.

Mr. Smalley's Literary Mission Abroad

George W. Smalley, the famous American editor author, has been granted a two-months holiday by his paper, the London Times, and has gone abroad on a special mission for The Ladies' Home Journal. He has engaged to prepare a short series of articles for that magazine, and is gathering the material for them in Europe. The work will necessitate his spending part of the summer in England, and the remainder in Germany.

Two for the Price of One.

We will send The Messenger and either of the following journals to any address for 50 cents. The regular subscription price of all the papers in the list is 50 cents. You get The Messenger for nothing,

The Reliable Poultry Journal.
The Poultry Tribune. (Freeport, Ill.)
The Poultry Herald.
The Western Poultry Journal.
The Feathered Realm.
The Michigan Poultry Breeder.

BREEDERS' CARDS.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS.
Cockerels \$1 each; pullets 75 cts. Eggs 4 cts each. A. M. Chamberlain, Aurelia, Iowa.

P. E. TWINING, KIPTON, OHIO.
(Lorain county.) Breeder of high class poultry of leading varieties. Send for catalogue.

JOHN P. ROWLEY, JORDAN, N. Y. Breeder of the Best Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes. Stock for sale. Eggs \$1 for 13.

FREDERICK E. COLEMAN, Manchester Green, Conn., breeder of Barred Ply. Rocks exclusively. Eggs for hatching \$1.25 per 13; \$2 per 26. Poultry journal one year free with every order. Please mention MESSENGER.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS exclusively. Eggs 15 for 75 cents. M. M. Garing, Montezuma, Iowa.

WILLIS WHINERY, SALEM, O., breeder of 20 varieties of full blood poultry. Eggs \$1 per 13; \$2 per 30. Write for what you want

SEND TO JOE FARMER, FLUSHING, Ohio, for circular of Choice Barred Plymouth Rocks and eggs.

BLACK MINORCAS, WINNERS at two banner shows, Cleveland and Pittsburg, winning eight premiums and two specials on eight entries at Pittsburg show. Fine breeding cockerels at reasonable prices. Eggs in season. Write for circular. Robert Mairret, Akron, Ohio.

IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC BLK and White Langshans. E. A. R., sure roup cure. A. H. Ascher, Princeton, Ill.

L. BRAHMAS, B. JAVA, R. C. B. Leghorns, from high scoring birds. Eggs \$1.25 per 15. Geo. Hammett, Sumner, Bremer county, Iowa.

SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURGs exclusively. Be sure and send for my illustrated circular—it is free. W. F. Metz, Ionia, Michigan.

PANSY POULTRY FARM, PANSY, Pa. Thirteen varieties of land and water fowls. Send stamp for circular.

MRS. M. A. SMITH, GILMAN, Iowa, has gilt edge stock of Black and White Langshans. Egg circular free.

GREAT BIG LIGHT BRAHMAS, Eggs and stock for sale in season at hard time prices. Our stock will suit you. L. M. Rowe, Galva, Iowa.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS exclusively. Conger, Hawkins, Lawton's best strains. Write me before you buy. J. D. Stevenson, Killbuck, O.

Fruit Growing

The Family Orchard.

The farmers' family orchard should contain a good many varieties. Some early, some medium, some late, some sweet apples and some sour ones. Apples to eat, to cook, to dry, to preserve and to stow away to be used as needed during the winter. In making the selections of varieties be guided by those that have been tested and proved of value in the locality where they are to grow. The family needs all kinds of apples and wants them at all times of year, and a good selection of varieties is essential to the securing of these. It should be remembered in the selection of the trees that the best ones are not those with the long, smooth straight stems, but rather a stalky tree with a low head and that has plenty of side starts, although it may be said to look rough. Plenty of good side shoots are good indications of good roots, and this is one important essential in the securing of good trees.—Western Rural.

Healing Wounds in Trees.

A writer in the Rural New Yorker says: A tree healer (so called) is a good thing for the man who sells it at a large profit. I have used various preparations for covering wounds and bruises on trees, and have settled down to plain grafting wax, believing from comparative tests, that is the equal of the best. Why cover a wound or bruise? Simply to exclude air and water. This done a little extra feed and careful attention for a year or two seldom fail to overcome such injuries. The preparations that are "always ready for use," such as shallac, paint, etc., have to be repeatedly applied to effect the same purpose that a coating of grafting wax does.

In this part of the west fall planting of fruit trees is generally condemned. No nurseryman of prominence advocates it. But on many accounts it is best to buy the trees intended for next years' planting in the fall and bury them up during the winter. Trees thus treated are in better condition for planting than those taken from the nursery and shipped a hundred miles or more just before planting time in the spring.

The Grain King

2-Horse Feed ... Grinder.

MOST MODERN GRINDER ON THE MARKET.

RESULT OF MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

Steel Burrs.



\$31 and Coupon WARRANTED FOR 5 YRS.

IN THIS NEW GRAIN KING GRINDER we offer to the farmers and feeders of the United States, the only sweep grinder manufactured that will handle ear corn as well as all kinds of small grain with equal results. **OUR GRINDERS** have been known in many parts of the United States for years, and we can say to you that the **GRAIN KING** has no rival. This machine is constructed on an entirely new and different plan than any other mill manufactured. It combines all the advantages that are found in any other machine and has its own peculiar and advantageous construction that cannot be duplicated by other manufacturers. **CONSTRUCTION.**—Made with cross-cut, screw-feed, cast steel hardened burrs. The **FEED BOX** is made of iron and so constructed in a cylindrical shape that it has the most possible strength for its weight and when bolted to the hard wood frame below and the main burr above is very compact, symmetrical and above all strong and durable. It comes up high around the point on the burrs where the grain is discharged and prevents the action of the wind and weather on the meal. It has a drop door in front which when opened answers as a scoop board in shoveling out the meal. The **COB BREAKER** is so arranged that it breaks the cob up in pieces fit for the upper or cob burrs, requiring only a small amount of power. The **COARSE** or **COB BURRS** are the upper set which do the coarse grinding and prepare the cob for the set of fine burrs. The **FINE** or **SMALL GRAIN BURRS** are the lower set of burrs and are the ones that do the fine or finished grinding. These burrs are cast steel hardened and so hard that they cannot be cut or drilled and consequently have long life which enables us to give the warrantee that we do. **CROSS-CUT SCREW FEED.**—This is the latest principle that has been put on the market in the shape of a grinder. The latest improved flat burrs are mostly cut with a screw shaped tooth and are therefore reasonable fast but have no force other than this to push the grain through. All cone shaped or large burr mills except the **GRAIN KING** depend entirely on the weight of the grain to force it through the burrs. The **GRAIN KING** however by means of an entirely new and patented process of construction is so built that it has the forcescrew feed and also the weight of the grain to force it through the burrs. Thus we are able to construct the burrs with fine teeth so that they will do fine work and at the same time fast work. **WHAT OTHER MILL** will grind ear corn successfully at a rate of from 12 to 20 bushels per hour and the same mill handle such small grain as rye, wheat, barley, etc., at from 8 to 14 bushels per hour? This is what this mill will do and do it well. **ADJUSTMENT.**—The pressure on the burrs is from a ball and socket joint and is therefore perfectly even and with no cramp and uneven strain. **TAKING UP THE WEAR** is done by a novel and effective incline plane device so that as the burrs wear they can be adjusted quickly and effectively. The **HOPPER** is large and substantial. The **SWEEP** is truss built, light and strong and so arranged that the team carries the outer end and thus takes all strain and uneven cramp off from the mill, making a perfectly even draft. It is **EASILY** staked to the ground and when once there properly staked, is there to stay.

WARRANTEE.—We warrant the **GRAIN KING** to grind ear corn soft or hard at from 12 to 15 bushels per hour—to grind oats or any other small grain mixed—to grind shelled corn, wheat, barley, rye and other small grain mixed or separately—to grind from 9 to 14 bushels of small or mixed grain for hog feed per hour according to the degree of fineness—to grind shelled corn for stock feeding from 15 to 20 bushels per hour. We warrant the **GRAIN KING** to do first class grinding for 5 years from date of purchase and furnish free of charge any parts wearing out inside of this time. We warrant the **GRAIN KING** against all imperfections in workmanship and material and will furnish defective parts free of charge at any time.

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OUR SPECIAL OFFER:—Our price on this mill is \$35.00. We will accept \$31.00 cash and the attached coupon for one of the Grain King Grinders f. o. b. Webster City, Iowa. We do this as an inducement, giving every reader of this paper an opportunity to buy the latest improved Feed Mill on the market direct from the manufacturers. We furnish a guarantee with each mill in duplicate of the one printed above and will refund your money if mill is not exactly as represented and does not fill the warrantee in every respect. Will ship C. O. D. if \$6.00 accompanies order as a guarantee of good faith. Mill is shipped at 2nd class rate, billing weight 350 pounds. Address all orders to

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Reference, First National Bank or any other bank of this city, or Bradstreet, Dunn, or any other Commercial Agency.

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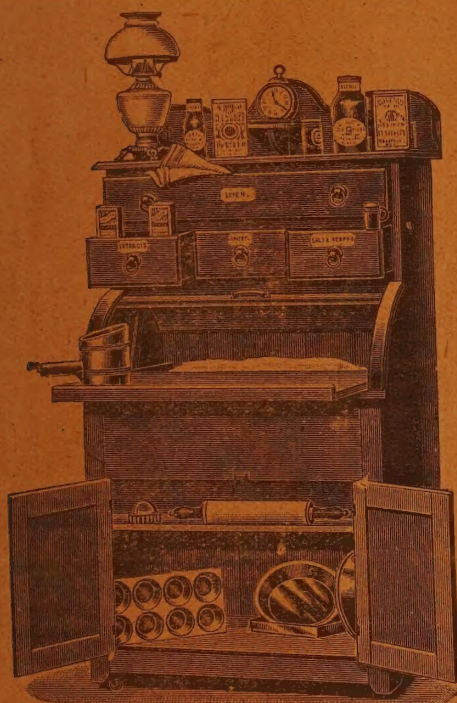
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MINORCAS.

No eggs for sale this season. Stock for sale in the fall, with score cards.



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STEAM WASHER.

The best family washing machine made. A ten year old child can operate it. Saves soap, time, labor, temper. No rubbing necessary; machine and county rights in Iowa for sale. Address
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Worth anything. Grease will daub them so you cannot get them clean. There are also other remedies that will discolor plumage and ruin them for show purposes. You make no mistake in keeping

Lambert's Death to Lice

On hand and putting nothing else on your show stock. It hurts nothing but vermin. It does the work quick and clean. It costs but 10 cents to try it. It is sold with a guarantee.

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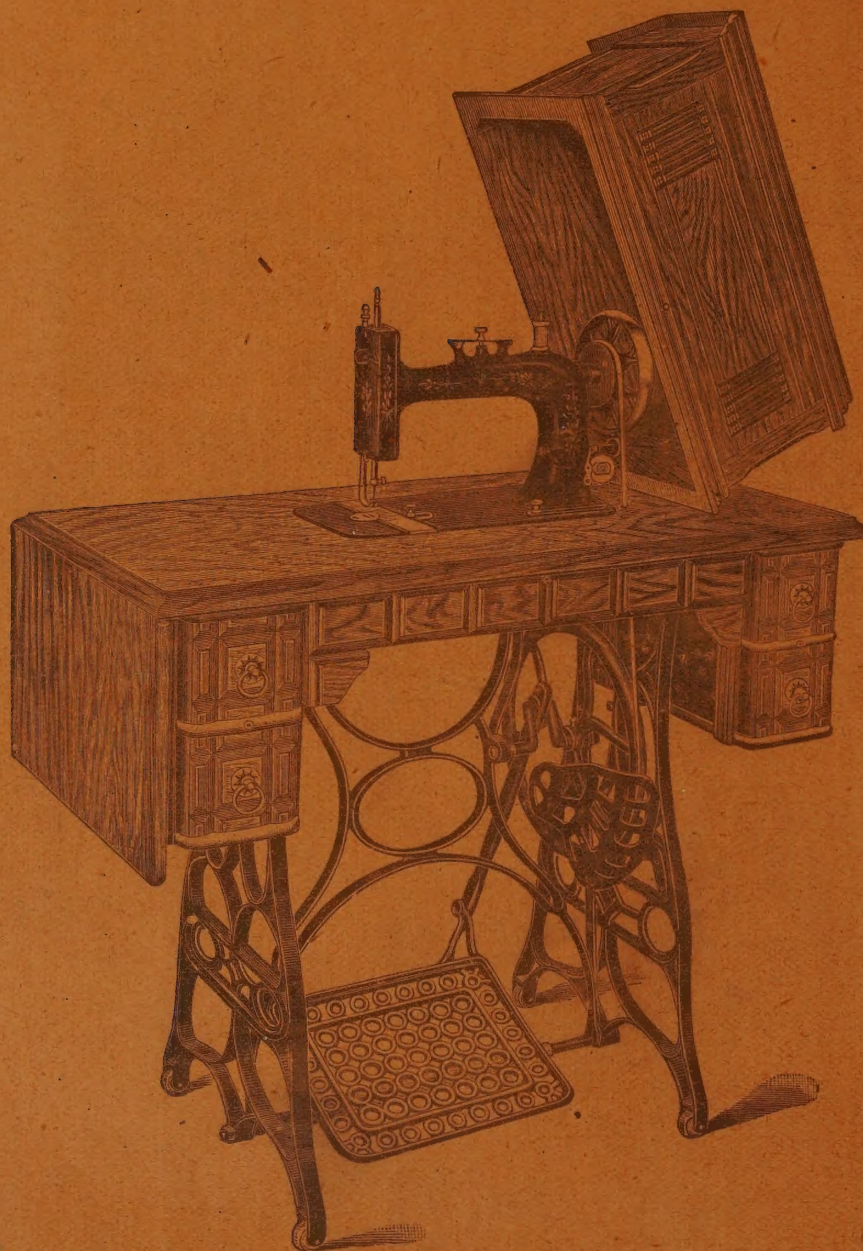
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R. C. B. Leghorns
S. C. B. Leghorns,
W. C. B. Polish,
S. S. Hamburgs,
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Buff Cochins.

Early Hatched birds for sale. The birds from my yards will win more prizes this year than before. Selected birds for breeding pens.

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